APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/739,687	12/20/2000	David Stephen Gress	95-455	3289

23164	7590	06/25/2004

LEON R TURKEVICH
2000 M STREET NW
7TH FLOOR
WASHINGTON, DC 200363307

EXAMINER
ZEWDU, MELESS NMN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2683	

DATE MAILED: 06/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _16 April 2004_.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-76_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-12,14-30,32-36,38-54,56-70 and 72-76_ is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) _13,31,37,55 and 71_ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment (A)

1.   This action is the first on the merit of the instant application.
2.   Claims 75 and 76 are newly added claims.
3.   Claims 1-76 are pending in this action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 6-12, 14, 35-36, 38-43, 48-54, 56, 59, 64-70 and 72 are rejected under

35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patil (US 6,625,460 B1) in view of

Spielman et al. (Spielman) (US 6,671,355 B1).

As per claim 1: a method in a server, the method comprising:
     receiving a short message service (SMS) message according to short message peer-to-peer (SMPP) protocol reads on '460 (see col. 1, lines 10-13). The short message transfer protocol (SMTP) or the Internet is an open protocol system.
     generating, based on the subscriber attribute information, at least one common format message that includes the SMS message reads on '460 (see col. 1, lines 10-36; col. 2, lines 23-39). The unified messaging protocol and/or the SMTP indicates that the system employs a common format/protocol message.
     But, Patel does not explicitly teach about accessing a subscriber directory according to an open network protocol and supplying a common format message to a selected destination according to a selected access protocol, as claimed and argued by applicant. However, in a related field of endeavor, Spielman teaches about a message notification system configured for sending a notification message to a subscriber having a received message wherein the system is configured for receiving notification messages for respective subscribers from messaging sources according to a prescribed open protocol such as Internet protocol and access subscriber profile information from an open protocol-based subscriber directory based on the received notification messages (see col. 38-67) and outputting or providing a common format for device

specific/selected notification messages, used to provide notification information to an identified/selected notification recipient based on the notification device type used by the notification recipient (see col. 4, lines 40-55; col. 5, line 50-col. 6, line 59; col. 10, lines 24-46). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Patil with that of Spielman for the advantage of providing an open standards-based architecture for delivering notification for unified messaging systems over a broad range of notification devices (see col. 2, lines 38-41).

As per claim 35: a server comprising:

a short message service (SMS) module configured for receiving SMS messages according to short message peer to peer (SMPP) protocol reads on '460 (col. 1, lines 10-33; col. 2, lines 23-39; col. 6, lines 8-37).

the SMS module configured for generating a query for subscriber attribute information based on the received SMS message reads on '460 (see fig. 4; col. 1, lines 10-33; col. 2, lines 23-39). The fact that "The SMSC determines if the intended destination is available to the network, and if so, the message is then sent to that destination" (see col. 1, lines 42-45) indicates that the network has some subscriber attributed data stored therein and to be consulted for routing a message/messages to a subscriber.

and generating at least one common format message based on the subscriber attribute information and that includes the SMS message reads on '460 (see fig. 4; col. 1, lines 10-36). The SMTP is known to be a type of common format message. Furthermore, the fact that "The SMSC determines if the intended destination is available to the network, and if so, the message is then sent to that destination" (see col. 1, lines 42-45) indicates that the network has some subscriber attributed data stored therein and to be consulted for routing a message/messages to a subscriber. But, Patil does not explicitly teach about a first interface resource configured for accessing the subscriber attribute information based on the query from a subscriber directory according to a prescribed open network protocol and a second interface resource configured for outputting the at least one common format message according to at least one of SMTP protocol and IMAP protocol, as claimed and argued by applicant. However, in a related field of endeavor, Spielman teaches about a message notification system configured for sending a notification message to a subscriber having a received message wherein the system is configured for receiving notification messages for respective subscribers from messaging sources according to a prescribed open protocol such as Internet protocol and access subscriber profile information from an open protocol-based subscriber directory based on the received notification messages (see abstract; col. 2, lines 38-67) and outputting or providing a common format for device specific/selected notification messages, used to provide notification information to an identified/selected notification recipient based on the notification device type used by the notification recipient (see col. 4, lines 40-55; col. 5, line 50-col. 6, line 59). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Patil with that of Spielman for the advantage of providing an open standards-based architecture for delivering notification

for unified messaging systems over a broad range of notification devices (see col. 2, lines 38-41).

As per claim 43: a computer readable medium having stored thereon sequences of instructions for receiving a short message service (SMS) message by a server, the sequences of instructions including instructions for performing the steps of:
receiving a short message service (SMS) message according to short message peer-to-peer (SMPP) protocol reads on '460 (see col. 1, lines 10-13). But, Patil does not explicitly teach about a computer readable medium for accessing a subscriber directory, according to an open network protocol, for subscriber attribute information based on the received SMS message and generating, based on the subscriber attribute information, at least one common format message that includes the SMS message and supplying the common format message to a selected destination according to a selected access protocol based on the subscriber attribute information, as claimed and argued by applicant. However, Spielman teaches that a subscriber directory can be accessed based on open network protocol and messages can be supplied in a common format to a selected destination (see col. 1, line 53-col. 2, line 67; col. 4, line 40- col. 5, line 7; col. 5, line 50-col. 6, line 59). The motivation for combining the references is same as provided in the rejction of claims 1 and 17.

As per claim 59: a server comprising:
means for receiving a short message service (SMS) message according to short message peer to-peer (SMPP) protocol reads on '460 (see col. 1, lines 10-13). But, Patil does not explicitly teach about a means for accessing a subscriber directory, according to an open network protocol, means for generating, based on the subscriber attribute information, at least one common format message that includes the SMS message and means for supplying the common format message to a selected destination according to a selected access protocol based on the subscriber attribute information, as claimed and argued by applicant. However, Spielman teaches about means for accessing a subscriber directory, according to an open network protocol (see abstract; col. 2, lines 38-67), for generating, based on the subscriber attribute information, at least one common format message that includes the SMS message (see col. 4, lines 40-55), and means for supplying the common format message to a selected destination according to a selected access protocol based on the subscriber attribute information (see col. 2, lines 38-67; col. 4, lines 40-55; col. 5, line 50-col. 6, line 59). The motivation is same as provided in the rejection of claims 1, 17.

As per claim 6: a method wherein the accessing step includes of accessing a subscriber directory according to Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) in the open network protocol for the subscriber attribute information reads on '355 (see col. 5, line 66-col. 6, line 40).

As per claim 7: the method, wherein the supplying step includes outputting the common format message to the selected destination according to SMTP protocol reads on 'see 355 (see col. 2, line 38-67).

As per claim 8: the method wherein the generating step includes enclosing the SMS message within a body of a MIME data structure, and specifying within the MIME data structure that the body has an SMS type reads on '355 (see col. 6, lines 32-59).

As per claim 9: the method, further comprising:
second generating a new SMS message including subscriber messaging information for a selected subscriber reads on '355 (see col. 2, lines 38-67) and outputting the new SMS message for the selected subscriber according to SMPP protocol reds on '355 (see col. 4, lines 40-55).

As per claim 10: the method wherein the second generating step includes obtaining subscriber message information, specifying stored unified messages within an assigned directory for the selected subscriber, from a subscriber message store according to a prescribed open network protocol reads on '355 (see col.abstract; col. 2, lines 38-67; col. 4, lines 40-55; col. 5, line 66-col. 6, line 59).

As per claim 11: the method wherein the subscriber messaging information specifies at least one of a stored SMS message, a voice, a fax message, and an e-mail message, as a corresponding at least one of the stored unified messages reads on '355 (see col. 6, lines 32-59).

As per claim 12: the method wherein the obtaining step includes obtaining the subscriber message information from the subscriber message store according to IMAP protocol reads on '355 (see col. 10, lines 24-46).

As per claim 14: the method, wherein the second generating step generates the new SMS message for the selected subscriber based on the corresponding subscriber attribute information for the selected subscriber reads on '355 (see col. 2, lines 38-67; col. 4, lines 40-55).

As per claim 36: claim 36 is essentially similar to claim 6 and is rejected on the same ground and motivation as claim 6.

As per claim 38: the server, wherein the SMS module is configured for generating a plurality of common format messages for respective destinations based on retrieval from the subscriber attribute information of a distribution list specified by the SMS message reads on '355 (see col. Abstract; col. 2, lines 38-67; col. 4, lines 40-55).

As per claim 39: claim 39 is similar to claim 8 and is rejected on the same ground and motivation as claim 8.

As per claim 40: the server, wherein the SMS module is configured for generating a new SMS message including subscriber messaging information for a selected subscriber, the SMS module outputting the new the SMS message for the selected subscriber according to SMPP protocol reads on '355 (see col. 4, lines 40-55; col. 5, lines 50-65).

As per claim 41: the server, wherein the SMS module obtains the subscriber messaging information from a subscriber message store according to IMAP protocol based on the subscriber attribute information for the corresponding selected subscriber accessed by the first interface from the subscriber directory reads on "355 (see col. 4, lines 40-55; col. 5, lines 50-65).

As per claim 42: the server, wherein the subscriber messaging information specifies at least one of a stored SMS message, a voice message, a fax message, and an e-mail message for the selected subscriber reads on '460 (see col. 1, lines 10-52).

As per claim 48: claim 48 is identical to claim 6 and is rejected on the same ground and motivation as claim 6.

As per claim 49: claim 49 is identical to claim 7 and is rejected on the same ground as claim 7.

As per claim 50: claim 50 is identical to claim 8 and is rejected on the same ground and Motivation as claim 8.

As per claim 51: claim 51 is identical to claim 9 and hence rejected on the same ground as claim 9.

As per claim 52: the method wherein the second generating step includes obtaining subscriber message information, specifying stored unified messages within an assigned directory for the selected subscriber, from a subscriber message store according to a prescribed open network protocol reads on '355 (see col.abstract; col. 2, lines 38-67; col. 4, lines 40-55; col. 5, line 66-col. 6, line 59).

As per claim 53: the method wherein the subscriber messaging information specifies at least one of a stored SMS message, a voice, a fax message, and an e-mail message, as a corresponding at least one of the stored unified messages reads on '355 (see col. 6, lines 32-59).

As per claim 54: the method wherein the obtaining step includes obtaining the subscriber message information from the subscriber message store according to IMAP protocol reads on '355 (see col. 10, lines 24-46).

As per claim 56: claim 56 is identical to claim 14 and is rejected on the same ground as claim 14.

As per claim 64: claim 64 is identical to claim 6 and is rejected on the same ground and motivation as claim 6.

As per claim 65: claim 65 is identical to claim 7 and is rejected on the same ground as claim 7.

As per claim 66: claim 66 is identical to claim 8 and is rejected on the same ground and motivation as claim 8.

As per claim 67: claim 67 is identical to claim 9 and is rejected on the same ground as claim 9.

As per claim 68: the method wherein the second generating step includes obtaining subscriber message information, specifying stored unified messages within an assigned directory for the selected subscriber, from a subscriber message store according to a prescribed open network protocol reads on '355 (see col.abstract; col. 2, lines 38-67; col. 4, lines 40-55; col. 5, line 66-col. 6, line 59).

As per claim 69: the method wherein the subscriber messaging information specifies at least one of a stored SMS message, a voice, a fax message, and an e-mail message, as a corresponding at least one of the stored unified messages reads on '355 (see col. 6, lines 32-59).

As per claim 70: the method wherein the obtaining step includes obtaining the subscriber message information from the subscriber message store according to IMAP protocol reads on '355 (see col. 10, lines 24-46).

As per claim 72: claim 72 is identical to claim 14 and is rejected on the same ground as claim 72.

Claims 2-5, 44-47 and 60-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Patil in view of Tullis et al. (Tullis) (US 5,802,314).

As per claim 2: but, Patil in view of Spielman doe not explicitly teach about a method
wherein the selected destination corresponds to a messaging folder for a selected
subscriber, as claimed by applicant. However, in a related field of endeavor, Tullis, in a
method and apparatus for sending and receiving multimedia messages, teaches that a
multimedia message can be stored in a subscribers messaging store (see col. 2, line
36-col. 4, line 42, particularly, col. 2, lines 51-60) in a common format (col. 8, lines 41-
55) wherein messages are stored in folders for reception and transmission to particular
destinations (see col. 7, lines 29-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of
ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Patil
in view of Spielman with that of Tullis for the advantage of providing users with
multimedia messaging service.
As per claim 44: claim 44 is identical to claim 2. Hence, claim 44 is rejected on the
same ground and motivation as claim 2. Examiner believes that a computer readable
medium is required by the prior art for carrying out the messaging process described
therein.
As per claim 60: claim 60, with the exception it being a means claim, is identical to
claim 2 which is a method claim. Since, a means is required by the method to be carried
out, claim 60 is rejected on the same ground and motivation as claim 2.
As per claim 3: the method, wherein the supplying step further includes storing the
common format message as an e-mail message according to Internet Message Access
Protocol (IMAP) reads on '314 (see col. 8, lines 41-55). When the references are
combined as shown in the rejection of claim 2, the stored common format message of
'314 will include an e-mail message according to Internet Message Access Protocol
(IMAP) as provided by '460 (col. 1, lines 10-33).
As per claim 45: claim 45 is identical to claim 3, with the exception of claim 45 being a
computer readable medium and claim 3 being a method claim. Examiner believes the
prior art of record include a computer readable medium to perform the messaging
function defined therein. Hence, claim 45 is rejected on the same ground and motivation
as claim 3.
As per claim 61: claim 61 is identical with claim 3, with the exception that the latter is a
method claim and the former (claim 61) is a means claim. Since, the means is required
by the method, claim 61 is rejected on the same ground and motivation as claim 3.
As per claim 4: the method, wherein the generating step includes generating within
the at least one common format message a destination address based on the
subscriber attribute information reads on '355 (see col. 2, lines 38-67; col. 4, lines 40-
55).
As per claim 46: claim 46 is identical with claim 4 and is rejected on the same ground
and motivation as claim 4.
As per claim 62: claim 62 is identical with claim 4 and is rejected on the same ground
and motivation as claim 4.

As per claim 5: the method, wherein the subscriber attribute information specifies at least one of a distribution list specified by an identified source of the SMS message, and a destination preference specified by an identified destination of the SMS message reads on '460 (see col. 1, lines 10-33; col. 11, lines 15-45).
As per claim 47: claim 47 is identical to claim 5 and is rejected on the same ground and motivation as claim 5.
As per claim 63: claim 63 is identical to claim 5 and is rejected on the same ground and motivation as claim 5.

Claims 15-16, 57-58 and 73-74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Patil as applied to claims 1, 9, 43, 51, 59 and 67 above, and further

in view of Wong.

As per claim 15: the method, wherein the second generating step includes: retrieving from a subscriber message store at least one of a stored SMS message, a voice message, a fax message, and an e-mail message from a directory assigned for the selected subscriber reads on '460 (see col. 1, lines 10-33; col. 6, line 57-col. 7, line 28). But, Patil does not explicitly teach about inserting the at least one message into the new SMS message, as claimed by applicant. However, Wong teaches about a multimedia system wherein different messages are encapsulated in a common format (see col. 2, lines 14-34). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the above references with the teaching of Wong for the advantage of making signaling protocols independent of each other.
As per claim 57: claim 57 is identical to claim 15 and is rejected on the same ground and motivation.
As per claim 73: claim 73 is identical to claim 15 and is rejected on the same ground and motivation as claim 15.
As per claim 16: the method, wherein the inserting step includes converting the voice message into a text-based message, and inserting the text-based message into the new SMS message reads on '288 (see col. 2, lines 14-39).
As per claim 58: claim 58 is identical to claim 16 and is rejected on the same ground and motivation as claim 16.
As per claim 74: claim 74 is identical to claim 16 and is rejected on the same ground and motivation as claim 16.

Claims 17-19 and 25-27 and 32-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Patil in view of Astrom et al. (Astrom) (US 6,108,559) and further in

view of Wong (US 6,185,288 B1).

As per claim 17: a method in a communications system, the method comprising:
        receiving by a short message service center (SMSC) an SMS message from a
SMS device reads on '460 (col. 1, lines 10-33; col. 2, lines 23-39; col. 6, lines 8-37).
        forwarding to a unified messaging server via short message peer to-peer (SMPP)
protocol based on SMS subscriber information determined by the SMSC based on the
SMS message reads on '460 (see col. 1, lines 10-33; col. 2, lines 23-39).
accessing subscriber attribute information by the unified messaging server based on the
SMS message reads on '460 (see col. 11, lines 15-45).
        But, Patil does not explicitly teach about forwarding a copy of a SMS message to
a unified messaging server, as claimed by applicant. However, in a related field of
endeavor, Astrom teaches about a short message routing system (SMS) wherein a
compy of a received SM can be copied, stored and forwarded to a receiving entity (see
col. 2, lines 8-37; col. 3, lines 48-58). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of
ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Patil's reference
with that of Astrom for the advantage of retaining copies of messages before they are
sent (see col.23-27). But, Patil in view of Astrom does not explicitly teach about
enclosing the SMS message by the unified messaging server into a common format
message and supplying the common format message to at least one selected
destination based on the subscriber attribute information, as claimed by applicant.
However, in a related field of endeavor, Wong teaches about a scheme for
encapsulating a call setup message or/and an outgoing call request with all associated
attributes into a common format, using multipurpose Internet Mail Extension (MIME)
principle/protocol (see col. 1, lines 1-34). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one
of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the
teaching of Patil in view of Astrom by that of Wong for the advantage of making the
signaling protocols independent of each other (see col. 2, lines 1-22).
As per claim 18: the method, wherein the forwarding step includes:
accessing the SMS subscriber information based on at least one of the SMS source
address and the SMS destination address reads on '460 9see col. 1, lines 10-33).
And generating the copy for forwarding to the unified messaging server based on
accessing the SMS subscriber information for at least one of the SMS source address
and the SMS destination address reads on '559 (see col. 3, lines 48-58).
As per claim 19: the method, further comprising sending the SMS message to a
second SMS device, having a prescribed address matching a destination address within
the SMS message, according to a prescribed wireless protocol reads on '460 9see col.
1, lines 10-33).
As per claim 25: the method, wherein the supplying step includes outputting the
common format message to the selected destination according to at least one of SMTP

protocol and IMAP protocol reads on '460 (see col. 1, lines 10-33; col. 7, lines 5-27). The STMP is a common format protocol. The at least one criteria has been met.

As per claim 26: the method, wherein the enclosing step includes enclosing the SMS message within a body of a MIME data structure, and specifying within the MIME data structure that the body has an SMS type reads on '288 (see col. 2, lines 14-39).

As per claim 27: the method, further comprising:

generating by the unified messaging server a new SMS message including subscriber messaging information for a selected subscriber reads on '460 (see abstract; col. 1, lines 10-29).

and outputting the new SMS message to the SMS the via SMPP protocol reads on '460 (see col. 1, lines 29-52).

As per claim 32: the method, wherein the generating step generates the new SMS message for the selected subscriber based on the corresponding subscriber attribute information for the selected subscriber reads on '460 (see col. 1, lines 10-52).

As per claim 33: the method, wherein the generating step includes:

retrieving from a subscriber message store at least one of the stored SMS message, a voice message, a fax message, and an e-mail message from a directory assigned for the selected subscriber reads on '460 (see col. 1, lines 10-52).

and inserting the at least one message into the new SMS message reads on '288 (see col. 2, lines 14-22).

As per claim 34: the method, wherein the inserting step includes converting the voice message into a text-based message, and inserting the text-based message into the new SMS message reads on '288 (see col. 1-34).

Claims 28-30 and 75-76 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Patil in views of Astrom and Wong and Further in view of Spileman.

As per claim 28: the method wherein the second generating step includes obtaining subscriber message information, specifying stored unified messages within an assigned directory for the selected subscriber, from a subscriber message reads on '460 (see col. 2, lines 23-39; col. 4, lines 4-36). But, Patil in views of Astrom and Wong do not explicitly teach about accessing a subscriber directory stored according to a prescribed open network protocol (see col. 2, lines 38-67; col. 4, lines 40-55; col. 5, line 66-col. 6, line 59). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the above references with the teaching of Spielman for the advantage of providing an open standards-based architecture for delivering notification for unified messaging systems over a broad range of notification devices (see col. 2, lines 38-41).

As per claim 29: the method wherein the subscriber messaging information specifies at least one of a stored SMS message, a voice, a fax message, and an e-mail message,

as a corresponding at least one of the stored unified messages reads on '355 (see col. 6, lines 32-59).

As per claim 30: the method wherein the obtaining step includes obtaining the subscriber message information from the subscriber message store according to IMAP protocol reads on '355 (see col. 10, lines 24-46).

As per claim 75: the method wherein the accessing step includes accessing a subscriber directory according to an open network protocol for the subscriber attribute information reads on '355 (see col. 2, lines 38-67; col. 4, lines 40-55; col. 5, line 66-col. 6, line 59).

As per claim 76: the method wherein the step of accessing the attribute directory includes generating a query according to LDAP protocol reads on '355 (see col. 5, line 66-col. 6, line 40).

Claims 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Patil in views of Astrom and Wong and further in view of Tullis.

As per claim 20: the method, wherein the supplying step includes storing the common format message in a subscriber message store reads on '460 (see col. 1, lines 10-33; col. 7, lines 5-27). The SMTP of the prior art is a type of common format message. But, the references discussed in the rejection of claim 17 do not explicitly teach about at least one selected destination corresponding to a messaging folder for a selected subscriber. However, in a related field of endeavor, Tullis, in a method and apparatus for sending and receiving multimedia messages, teaches that a multimedia message can be stored in a subscribers messaging store (see col. 2, line 36-col. 4, line 42, particularly, col. 2, lines 51-60) in a common format (col. 8, lines 41-55) wherein messages are stored in folders for reception and transmission to particular destinations (see col. 7, lines 29-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the above references (discussed in claim 17) with that of Tullis for the advantage of providing users with multimedia messaging service.

As per claim 21: the method, wherein the supplying step further includes storing the common format message as an e-mail message according to IMAP protocol reads on '314 (see col. 8, lines 41-55). When the references are combined as shown in the rejection of claims 17 and 20, the stored common format message of '314 will include an e-mail message according to Internet Message Access Protocol (IMAP) as provided by '460 (col. 1, lines 10-33).

As per claim 22: the method, wherein the enclosing step includes generating for the common format message a destination address based on the subscriber attribute information reads on '288 (see col. 2, lines 14-39).

As per claim 23: the method of claim 22, further comprising generating a plurality of the common format messages having respective selected destinations based on retrieval of a distribution list from the subscriber attribute information reads on '460 9see col. 1, lines 10-33; col. 11, lines 15-45).

Claims 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patil

in views of Astrom, Wong, Tullis and further in view of Hoffpauir.

As per claim 24: but, Patil, Astrom, Wong and Tullis do not explicitly teach about, accessing a subscriber attribute information according to Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP). However, in a related field of endeavor, Hoffpauir teaches about the use of Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) in a communication system for exchanging information with a the communication system using various types of messages (see col. 3, line 64-col. 4, line 28, particularly col. 4, lines 23-25). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify Patil in view of Tullis with the teaching of Hoffpauir for the advantage of retrieving subscriber's directory information.

Allowable Subject Matter

The indicated allowability of claim10-12, 28-30, 52-54 and 68-70 is withdrawn in

view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Spileman et al. (US 6,671,355 B1).

Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claims 13, 31, 37, 55 and 71 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected

base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the

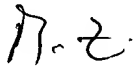limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Meless N Zewdu whose telephone number is (703) 306-

5418. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am to 5:00 pm..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, William Trost can be reached on (703) 308-5318. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Meless Zewdu

    Examiner

21 June 2004.

WILLIAM TROST
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600